(a) whether it is a fact that the much delayed aircraft acquisition plan of Air India to purchase 28 aircrafts of Boeing and Airbus at a cost of $2.0 billion has now been cleared by the AI Board; and

(b) if so, how the airline plan to fund this acquisition and whether Government will stand guarantee for the loan seeing the financial position of AI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI):(a) and (b) The Board of Directors of Air India in its meeting held on 8.11.2003 approved the proposal for acquisition of 10 medium capacity long-range (A340-300) and 18 small capacity short-range (B-737-800) aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs.10,589 crores. As per international practice and as done earlier, Air India will raise funds for fleet acquisition through commercial borrowings in international/Indian market. The question of providing Government guarantee will depend on the nature of the proposal submitted by Air India.

Staff in Air India and Indian Airlines

1408. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of staff employed both in Air India and Indian Airlines and the categories which the staff is employed in;

(b) the yearly salary bill of both carriers during the last three years;

(c) whether Air India and Indian Airlines are currently overstaffed; if so, what steps are being taken over this issue; and

(d) the profits or losses made by Air India and Indian Airlines during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Category-wise staff in Air India and Indian Airlines are as under:

Air India

Category	Regular Staff	Staff on Foreign Scale of pay
Clerical	1453	198
Managerial	4897	133

Semi Skilled	812	Nil
Skilled	1937	18
Supervisory	1620	32
Unskilled	4450	11
TOTAL :	15561.	392

Indian Airlines		**Alliance Air**	
Pilots/Line Pilots	417	Pilots	103
Engineers/Flight Engineers	223	Cabin crew	189
Ground Instructor	17	Operation Department	96
Aircraft Engineer	631	Engineer	55
General Category Officer	1943	Technician	76
Cabin	901	Other General Staff	243
Technicians	2712	Security Attendants	38
Non-Technical Staff in (Grade 1/2 to 9) Grade	12205		
TOTAL :	19049	TOTAL :	800

(b) Air India's salary bill for the last three financial years are Rs. 721.88, 729.76 and 748.28 crores respectively. Similarly Indian Airlines' salary bill are Rs. 873.96, Rs.978.66 and Rs. 950.53 (Provisional 2002-03) crores respectively. The Alliance Air salary bill are Rs. 37.98, Rs.39.11 and Rs. 38.34 crores respectively.

(c) Though there is no surplus staff in Air India and Indian Airlines yet both airlines had taken various measures for reducing manpower and staff costs. The measures taken by Air India includes freeze on external recruitment in non-operational categories, abolition of vacant posts, redeployment of persons from non operational to operational areas, introduction of leave without pay/shorter working week scheme, introduction of VRS and lowering the retirement age to 58 from 60. Similary steps taken by Indian Airlines include freeze on recruitment, introduction of VRS, redeployment of persons from non operational to operational areas and lowering the retirement age.

(d) The net profit/(loss) made by Air India during the last three financial year was (Rs. 44.39),Rs. 15.44 and Rs. 133.86 crore respectively. Indian Airlines incurred loss of Rs. 159.17, Rs. 246.75 and

Rs. 196.56 crores respectively and Alliance Air incurred loss of Rs. 71.18, Rs. 56.97 and Rs. 85.00 crores respectively, during last three financial years.

Maintenance of Airports

1409. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the cost incurred on maintenance and upgradation of airports together with the details thereof;

(b) the revenue earned from each airport; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to upgrade more airports into international airports and if so, which airports are to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Maintenance and upgradation of airports is a continuous process. During the year 2002-03, Rs. 11736.46 lakhs were incurred on maintenance of airports and Rs. 30603.00 lakhs were incurred on development of airports.

(b) The net revenue (in lakhs) earned by airports during the year 2002-03 is given against the names of airport as Delhi-Rs. 21118.49, Mumbai - Rs. 33564.47, Chennai -Rs. 7467.15, Kolkata - Rs. 2801.54, Bangalore - Rs. 3194.60, Hyderabad - Rs. 1734.91, Goa - Rs. 876.68, Calicut - Rs.570.50, Juhu - Rs. 333.81, Pune - Rs. 373.46, Ahmedabad Rs.16.62. Remaining airports are loss making.

(c) There is a plan to declare Srinagar airport as international.

Upgradation of ILS at Delhi Airport

1410. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the state of the art category III landing system installed at the Delhi Airport for two years now, flights are not permitted to take off or land in foggy/poor visibility conditions, causing long delays to passengers:

(b) if so, the details of fresh steps being taken to further upgrade